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ABSTRACT

This lesson accompanies a videotape which examines some of the forces, personalities and events which shaped Berlin and the rest of Germany between 1945 and 1994. The lesson is introduced by using the videotape and uses references from the videotape for further classroom work. Worksheets for student use include "Events in Germany, 1945-1994" and "Comments About Germany 1945-1994." A handout focuses on "Some Key Dates in Berlin's Recent History." A teacher's resource list and a map of Germany conclude the lesson. (EH)

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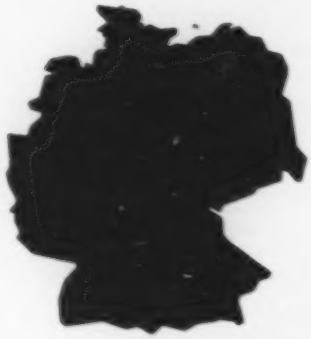
GERMANY SINCE 1945

A Focus on Berlin



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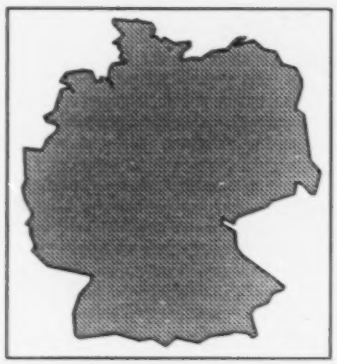
A Focus on Berlin



LENGTH 15 minutes .

GRADE LEVELS 5-12

AREAS OF STUDY World History, U.S. History, International Studies

PROGRAM SUMMARY A recurring theme throughout European history has been the "German question." The half century following the defeat of Germany's Third Reich in World War II brought a new solution to the problem of defining the German nation. Out of the shifts of powers that emerged from the aftermath of the war, Berlin became the front-line symbol of the cold war. This film examines some of the forces, personalities and events which shaped Berlin and the rest of Germany between 1945 and 1990.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will

- list significant dates and events related to the history of Germany since the end of World War II.
- compare and contrast the patterns of economic development in the two Germanys from 1945 until 1990.
- identify and evaluate the roles played by selected world leaders in influencing political developments in Germany.

VOCABULARY

- Potsdam Conference
- Morgenthau Plan
- Marshall Plan
- SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany]
- GDR [German Democratic Republic, East Germany]
- FRG [Federal Republic of Germany, West Germany]
- COMECON [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance]
- Warsaw Pact
- EEC [European Economic Community]
- EU [European Union]
- glasnost
- perestroika

BEFORE VIEWING THE PROGRAM

An ideological conflict began at the end of World War II among the victorious Allies. Discuss with students attributes of this "Cold War" and how the conflict created a postwar Germany which, for nearly a half-century, was divided into two quite different systems. Ask students to identify some of the forces, personalities and events in the film which might appeal to German feelings of national identity and patriotism.

AFTER VIEWING THE PROGRAM

1. Suggested questions for discussion.
   a. In what particular scenes and reported episodes were particular emotions -- pride, joy, anger, despair, etc. -- demonstrated by the Germans?
   b. In addition to the Germans themselves, other nations influenced events and attitudes in the two Germanys during the years 1945-1990. What roles did the following nations play during this time period -- the United States? the USSR? Hungary? Poland? Czechoslovakia?
   c. Symbols and images convey specific ideas and values. What were some of the symbols shown in the film? What were their significance? How has the message these symbols conveyed changed over time? [e.g. swastika, VW Beetle, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate]
   d. What individuals had the greatest impact on the developments in the two Germanys? Identify and defend your choice(s).

2. In addition to Germany, other nations were divided after World War II. These include Korea and later Vietnam. Have groups of students conduct research and then report on the similarities and differences between Germany's experience and that of the other divided nations.

3. Since unification in 1990, there have been numerous developments in Germany. Have students conduct research on the problems and achievements in the following categories.
   - ► political developments
   - ► social and ethnic issues
   - ► environmental concerns
   - ► economic issues

4. Over the years, several U.S. presidents visited Berlin to call for the unification of the two Germanys. Statements from President Kennedy and President Reagan are presented in the film. Ask students to locate the text of the remarks delivered by President Clinton in his Berlin speech, July 12, 1994, as the last of the occupation forces withdrew from the Federal Republic of Germany. Students should select quotations from Clinton's remarks which signify the end of the occupation by the four Allied Powers which had been in place since the end of World War II.

Answer Keys

Worksheet 1

1945 - Yalta Conference; division of Germany into four parts
1947 - Cold War begins
1948 - Currency reform; blockade of the city of Berlin (June 1948-May 1949)
1949 - Two Germanys founded (West, FRG-May 8, 1949; East, GDR-October 7, 1949)
1953 - demonstrations in East Germany; construction workers in East Berlin call for general strike; on June 17, Soviet tanks are sent in at request of East German leadership
1961 - "border protection system" [the Wall] erected the the GDR leadership
1963 - John F. Kennedy confirmed the US protective role by his visit and speech
1969 - Willy Brandt becomes Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
1987 - President Ronald Reagan visits Berlin
1989 - demonstrations throughout Germany; Berlin Wall opens
1990 - unification of the two Germanys
1994 - last of the occupation forces leave Germany

Worksheet 2

Quote 1 - *Ernst Reuter, 1948* [Mayor of Berlin 1948-1953]
Quote 2 - *Ludwig Erhard, 1949* [Economics Minister; "locomotive" of the "economic miracle"]
Quote 3 - *John F. Kennedy, 1963*
Quote 4 - *Ronald Reagan, 1987*

Answers regarding the significance of each quote to the history of Germany will vary.

EVENTS IN GERMANY
1945 - 1994

Directions: As you watch the video, record either the missing date in the left column or the historical event in the right column.

_____	Potsdam Conference; division of Germany and Berlin into four sectors
_____	Cold War begins
1948--	_____ reform; blockade of the city of _____
_____	two Germanys founded (FRG/GDR)
1953--	uprising in_____ regarding economic programs
1961--	"border protection system" erected by _____
1963--	_____ confirmed the US protective role in West Germany by his visit and speech
_____	Willy Brandt becomes Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
_____	President Ronald Reagan visits Berlin
_____	demonstrations throughout Germany; Berlin Wall opens
1990 (October 3)--	_____
1994--	_____

COMMENTS ABOUT GERMANY
1945 - 1994

Directions: As you view the video, identify the speaker, the year when the statement was made, and its meaning in the context of the history of Germany and Berlin.

"Nations of the world, you peoples of America, of England, of France, of Italy, look upon this city and recognize you cannot, you must not desert this city and this nation."

Speaker_____ Year Spoken_____

Significance to the history of Germany and Berlin_____

_____

"Good money for good work."

Speaker_____ Year Spoken_____

Significance to the history of Germany and Berlin_____

_____

_____

_____

"Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is 'Ich bin ein Berliner."

Speaker_____ Year Spoken_____

Significance to the history of Germany and Berlin_____

_____

_____

"Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Speaker_____ Year Spoken_____

Significance to the history of Germany and Berlin_____

_____

_____

SOME KEY DATES IN BERLIN'S RECENT HISTORY

London Protocol, September 12, 1944 The United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union agree to divide Germany and Berlin into three zones, with the special Berlin area to be under joint occupation by the three powers.

Yalta Conference, February 4-11, 1945 Revising plans for Germany, the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union carve a fourth zone for the French from those designated for the United States and Great Britain. The special Berlin area will now also have four zones.

Berlin Airlift, June 1948-May 1949 During the Soviet blockade of West Berlin, American and British aircraft supply over 2 million inhabitants of Berlin with all food, fuel, industrial goods and raw materials. Supply deliveries grow from 500-700 tons a day in June 1948 to 12,940 tons by April 1949. Seventy-nine people lose their lives working on the operation.

Establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany, May 8, 1949; Establishment of the German Democractic Republic, October 7, 1949

Uprising in East Berlin, June 17, 1953 Construction workers in East Berlin call for a general strike. As unrest spreads to other cities, Soviet tanks are sent in at the request of the East German leadership.

German Sovereignty, May 5, 1955 The Federal Republic of Germany becomes a sovereign state. However, the Allies retain special rights regarding Berlin and Germany as a whole.

Second Berlin Crisis, November 27, 1958 through January 23, 1963 Growing tension between the Soviet Union and the United States are played out in Berlin. Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev proposes neutrality for West Berlin and an end to the Four Powers rights and responsibilites regarding Germany. U.S. President John F. Kennedy responds with his "Three Essentials" speech, July 25, 1961, guaranteeing West Berlin's freedom through a continued Western presence. Khrushchev defuses the situation during a speech in East Berlin in 1963.

Construction of the Berlin Wall, August 13, 1961 As the number of people leaving East Germany for the West increases to around 250,000 a month, the East German government decides to stop the flow with a barrier that grows to encircle West Berlin's entire area. During the wall's existence, at least 170 people are killed trying to escape from East to West Berlin.

Kennedy's Berlin Speech, June 26, 1963 U.S. President John F. Kennedy promises to stand up for Berlin's freedom in his "Ich bin ein Berliner" [I am a Berliner] speech.

Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin, September 9, 1971 The agreement codifies West Berlin's links with the Federal Republic of Germany, reducing East/West tensions over Berlin.

Reagan's Berlin Speech, June 12, 1987 In a speech, U.S. President Ronald Reagan demands, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear this wall down!"

Fall of the Berlin Wall, November 9, 1989

Two-Plus-Four Treaty, September 12, 1990 The governments of the four World War II Allied Powers, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic sign the treaty in Moscow, terminating the Four Powers' rights and responsibilities regarding Berlin and Germany as a whole. The treaty calls for the complete withdrawal of Soviety forces from Germany by the end of 1994, while allowing for a continued Allied troop presence in Berlin during this period. Upon ratification, Germany is to have full sovereignty over its internal and external affairs. On March 15, 1991, the Two-Plus Four Treaty comes into effect.

German Unification, October 3, 1990 East Germany accedes to the Federal Republic of Germany. Berlin becomes the capital of a united Germany.

Berlin voted the German seat of government, June 20, 1991 The German parliment votes to move the seat of government from Bonn to Berlin. With construction underway, plans envisage the parliament, chancellory, and many ministries moving to Berlin. The move is slated to begin in 1998.

Clinton's Berlin Speech, July 12, 1994 Bill Clinton is the first U.S. president to speak at the Brandenburg Gate in a united Berlin. The final withdrawal of the Allied troops is complete by the end of the year.

General Background Reading

Copies of the following publications may be obtained free of charge from:
German Information Center
950 Third Ave., 24th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 888-9840

Facts about Germany. Frankfurt, Germany: Societäts-Verlag, annual.

Germany and the USA. New York: German Information Center, 1989.

Germany: Constitution and Legal System. Bonn, Germany: Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government, 1991.

Germany: Country and People. Bonn, Germany: Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government, 1992.

Germany: Elections, Parliament, and Political Parties. New York: German Information Center, 1990.

The Week in Germany An eight-page weekly news bulletin in English that features current perspectives on political, economic, and miscellaneous news from Germany. Readable, concise, and focused on a menu of topics of interest to both social studies and second language educators.

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Map of Germany

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